

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. In this listing, claims 1, 14, 27, and 40 have been amended and claims 56-59 have been added.

Listings of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for providing help information that explains to a user of an electronic television program guide how the electronic television program guide operates, the method comprising:

tracking and storing a current operating mode of the electronic program guide as the user operates the electronic television program guide, wherein the electronic television program guide has a plurality of operating modes;

receiving a user input; and

providing help information that explains to the user how the electronic television program guide operates in response to receiving the user input, wherein the help information provided is based on the stored current operating mode.

2. (Previously presented) The method defined in claim 1 further comprising:

displaying a help icon using the electronic television program guide, wherein receiving the user input comprises receiving a user selection of the help icon.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The method defined in claim 1 wherein providing help information comprises displaying the help information in response to the user input, wherein a user depressing a help key on a remote control generates the user input.

5. (Previously presented) The method defined in claim 1 wherein providing help information comprises displaying a text message that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

6. (Previously presented) The method defined in claim 1 wherein providing help information comprises displaying an instructional video that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

7. (Previously presented) The method defined in claim 1 wherein providing help information comprises playing

an instructional audio program that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

8-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The method defined in claim 1 further comprising:

storing the help information in a memory; and
retrieving the help information from the memory
in response to receiving the user input.

14. (Currently amended) An electronic television program guide system that provides help information for explaining to a user of an electronic television program guide how the electronic television program guide operates, the system comprising:

means for tracking and storing a current operating mode of the electronic program guide as the user operates the electronic television program guide, wherein the electronic television program guide has a plurality of operating modes;

means for receiving a user input; and

means for providing help information that explains to the user how the electronic television program guide operates in response to receiving the user input,

wherein the help information provided is based on the stored current operating mode.

15. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 14 further comprising:

means for displaying a help icon using the electronic television program guide wherein receiving the user input comprises receiving a user selection of the help icon.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 14 wherein the means for providing help information comprises means for displaying the help information in response to the user input, wherein a user depressing a help key on a remote control generates the user input.

18. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 14 wherein the means for providing help information comprises means for displaying a text message that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

19. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 14 wherein the means for providing help information comprises means for displaying an instructional video that

explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

20. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 14 wherein the means for providing help information comprises means for playing an instructional audio program that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

21-25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 14 further comprising:

means for storing the help information; and
means for retrieving the help information from the means for storing in response to receiving the user input.

27. (Currently amended) An electronic television program guide system that provides help information for explaining to a user of an electronic television program guide how the electronic television program guide operates, the system comprising:

a video display generator;
a remote controller;
a microcontroller; and

an electronic television program guide executed by the microcontroller and programmed to (1) track and store a current operating mode of the electronic program guide as the user operates the electronic television program guide, wherein the electronic television program guide has a plurality of operating modes, (2) receive a user input and (3) provide help information that explains to the user how the electronic television program guide operates to the video display generator for display in response to receiving the user input, wherein the help information provided is based on the stored current operating mode.

28. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 27 wherein the electronic television program guide is further programmed to:

provide a help icon to the video display generator for display; and

provide the user with an opportunity to select the help icon using the remote controller.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 27 wherein:

the remote controller comprises a help key; and

the electronic television program guide is further configured to provide the help information to the video display generator in response to the user depressing the help key on the remote controller.

31. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 27 wherein:

the help information comprises a text message that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates; and

the electronic television program guide is further programmed to provide the text message to the video display generator for display.

32. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 27 wherein:

the help information comprises an instructional video that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates; and

the electronic television program guide is further configured to provide the instructional video to the video display generator for display.

33. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 27 wherein:

the system further comprises a television;

the help information comprises an instructional audio program that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates; and

the electronic television program guide is configured to provide the audio program to the video display generator for playback by the television.

34-38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 27 wherein the electronic television program guide is further programmed to:

store the help information in a memory; and
retrieve the help information from the memory in response to receiving the user input.

40. (Currently amended) Machine-readable media for use with an electronic television program guide, the machine-readable media comprising program logic recorded thereon for:

tracking and storing a current operating mode of the electronic program guide as the user operates the electronic television program guide, wherein the electronic television program guide has a plurality of operating modes;

receiving a user input; and

providing help information that explains to the user how the electronic television program guide operates in

response to receiving the user input, wherein the help information provided is based on the stored current operating mode.

41. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media defined in claim 40 further comprising program logic recorded thereon for displaying a help icon using the electronic television program guide wherein receiving the user input comprises receiving a user selection of the help icon.

42. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media defined in claim 40 wherein the program logic for providing help information comprises program logic for displaying the help information in response to the user input, wherein a user depressing a help key on a remote control generates the user input.

43. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media defined in claim 40 wherein the program logic for providing help information comprises program logic for displaying a text message that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

44. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media defined in claim 40 wherein the program logic for providing help information comprises program logic for

displaying an instructional video that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

45. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media defined in claim 40 wherein the program logic for providing help information comprises program logic for playing an instructional audio program that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media defined in claim 40 further comprising program logic recorded thereon for:

storing the help information in a memory; and
retrieving the help information from the memory
in response to receiving the user input.

48-51. (Canceled).

52. (Previously presented) The method defined in claim 1 wherein the current operating mode is one of flip, browse, menu, impulse ordering, and setting a lockout.

53. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 14 wherein the current operating mode is one of flip, browse, menu, impulse ordering, and setting a lockout.

54. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 27 wherein the current operating mode is one of flip, browse, menu, impulse ordering, and setting a lockout.

55. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media defined in claim 40 wherein the current operating mode is one of flip, browse, menu, impulse ordering, and setting a lockout.

56. (New) The method defined in claim 1 wherein the stored current operating mode of the electronic television program guide comprises data reflecting the current operating mode.

57. (New) The system defined in claim 14 wherein the stored current operating mode of the electronic television program guide comprises data reflecting the current operating mode.

58. (New) The system defined in claim 27 wherein the stored current operating mode of the electronic

television program guide comprises data reflecting the current operating mode.

59. (New) The machine-readable media defined in claim 40 wherein the stored current operating mode of the electronic television program guide comprises data reflecting the current operating mode.